

### REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of this application.

Claims 1-15 remain pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 15 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled Claims 6, 8, and 14, and amended the specification and Claims 1 and 15. No new matter has been added.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(d), for failing to show the ring resonator recited in the claims. While not conceding the propriety of this objection, Applicant has removed the recitation of the ring resonator from the claims through the cancellation of Claim 14. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the objection.

Claims 8 and 9 stand objected to for informalities. Applicant has canceled Claim 8 and amended Claim 9 to attend to this matter, and requests withdrawal of this objection as well.

Claims 1-5, 7, and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0151462 (Furuyama). Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Furuyama. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Furuyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,477,286 (Ouchi). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Furuyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,940 (Kim). Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Furuyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,446,579 (Lomashevitch). Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Furuyama in view of Ouchi. Applicant traverses these rejections.

Independent Claims 1 and 15 each recite an optical waveguide and relaying means. The optical waveguide is a sheet-shaped optical waveguide for propagating light in two-dimensional directions. The relaying means relays light from a transmission point to a reception point, and includes a light diffusing structure defined by a plurality of protrusions in the waveguide.

Furuyama is directed to an optical circuit board for propagating an optical signal. Applicant submits that Furuyama describes a line-shaped optical waveguide, as shown in Figure 3. Applicant submits that Furuyama does not show a sheet-shaped optical waveguide and, consequently, fails to suggest relaying means including a light diffusing structure comprised of a plurality of protrusions formed in a sheet-shaped waveguide.

Ouchi is merely cited in the in the Office Action as describing a vertical waveguide formed to interact with a horizontal waveguide. Kim is merely cited in the Office Action as describing relaying means for performing signal conversion and for changing a propagation condition in a regenerative manner. Lomashevitch is merely cited in the Office Action as describing a ring resonator. Applicant submits that these documents fail to remedy the deficiencies discussed above with respect to Furuyama.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the cited documents, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the features now recited in independent Claims 1 and 15.

The remaining claims in this application are dependent claims which depend from independent Claims 1 and 15. Applicant submits that the dependent claims are allowable

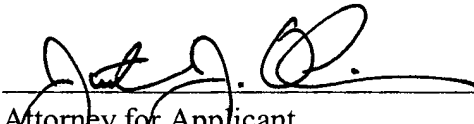
for the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims. In addition, those claims recite additional features that further distinguish them from the cited patent documents.

Applicant requests favorable and independent consideration of the dependent claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, and allowance of this application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Attorney for Applicant  
Justin J. Oliver  
Registration No. 44,986

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

JJO\gmc

DC\_MAIN 186947v1